

Willamette Chapter American Rhododendron Society Newsletter

Volume 3

October 2021

Issue 7



Willamette Chapter ARS
Rhododendron Hillside Garden
Bush Pasture Park

CHAPTER MEETINGS: Due to Covid-19, our current chapter meetings are held online via Zoom on the 2nd Wednesday of the month from September through May. Socializing begins at 6:30pm, with the meeting and speaker at 7:00pm. The Zoom link is sent via email and listed in the newsletter. This form of meeting will continue until in-person meetings can safely be resumed.

CHAPTER MEETING October 13, 2021



Speaker - Dr. Glen Jamieson
Title: *Mount Kinabalu:*
Southeast Asia's Kilimanjaro

Social Time: 6:30pm Meeting and Program: 7:00pm

Join via Zoom at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82208341281>



Multnomah Falls



Portland Japanese Garden



September Minutes



Mary Crofts Secretary September 8, 2021

And we're back! Summer's almost over, but Covid is still with us in all its horrible ways, so we are back but not "in person".. We will still meet via Zoom until further notice. It was still great to see so many of our WCARS members and associates, along with the newer faces of those who have been able to "attend" our meetings via Zoom.

But there was some problem with exactly what time the meeting was to start. Mary Ellen Ramseyer, the often better-part of the Keith-and-Mary Ellen-duo, had sent out an email letting us know we'd start at 6:30 so we could socialize a bit, even though without the home-made cookies of yore. Keith didn't get or read (or both) the email and thought we were starting right at 7 pm. Our esteemed President-For-Life, Wally Reed, set us all straight...6:30 it was, with Jacquie Clayton's talk to start at 7-ish.

As we went along, various people rang the "doorbell" and made themselves part of the group. I don't know how many attended, at the final count, but it seemed like it had to be between 20 to 30 or perhaps even more. Keith says he counted 40. Thanks to the internet, and to John Roy in Scotland, we're covering a wider range than before.

Sandra, from Canada, (and I apologize for not getting your last name) spoke a bit about the Conference being held in Canada in October. It is being "pulled together" and probably will be a mixture of real and zoom.

Wally thanked all those who helped with the clean up after the huge ice storm which hit the North part of the Willamette Valley, doing major damage. Both the Smith Garden and Anne Gross's many acres of rhodys were hit hard, with Anne's loss being recorded as the second worst damage in Marion County.

There will be a memorial for Harold Greer some-time later, with no mention if we were looking at

later this fall, or in the spring when his rhodys would be in bloom.

There was also some discussion about another Work Party for the Smith Garden. The date was changed from Oct. 16th to Oct. 23rd. Then it was changed back to the 16th. (This is a problem with Zoom,,,you can hear what's being said, but the picture of who's speaking doesn't always appear until after they've spoken and since I'm not in the same room with who ever is speaking, I don't "see" which direction it's coming from, and your Secretary gets sort of muddled. I'm old and that's my excuse and I'm sticking to it...) Mike and Maria Stewart have a list of plants that need to be replaced at the Smith Garden. Anne suggested getting those that bloom mainly in April and/or May or that have gold foliage to "frame" other rhodys.

There was also some talk about the libraries of both Herb Spady and Jason Ashford. Both men had wonderful rhody libraries (using the word "had" in Herb's case, although he's still alive, but his library was given to our chapter). Jason Ashford's books are available free to Chapter members. Only a few have been given away. Keith says "come and get em". Selling the books on-line or perhaps selling them at the 2022 Conference are also possibilities. The 2022 Conference is still "on" and planned for live attendance. But there may be some speakers "attending" via Zoom instead of "live".

And on to our evening's speaker, Jacquie Clayton. She and her husband Tony, live in Lions Bay, British Columbia. They both grew up with gardening families, with her mom having planted a row of "rhodos" down their driveway. The Canadians spell the nickname for our favorite flower as "rhodo", which we usually write as "rhody"...so I'll probably use both in these minutes. They share a love of mountaineering as well. They are also members of the RSBG. When Steve Hootman was preparing to go to Sikkim in 2015, he invited them to trek along with him. And they accepted. And it's pretty obvious from both of Jacquie's videos that they not only enjoyed the trek; they also fell in love with Sikkim. The first video gives details of history, geography, the different cultures and ethnic groups of Sikkim as a kingdom and as now, a State of India. The second contains no history, conversation or comments....it's just many beautiful photos with labels on the flowers and plants, set to the country's national music. All told in her

beautiful voice.

Video number one, was full of photographs. Sikkim is a tiny country just North of India, and now a State of India. It is bordered by Nepal on the west, Bhutan on the east, Tibet on the north and India on the south. It is about 45 miles East to West and about 60 miles North to South. It is part of the Himalayan Mountain Range and has the third highest peak on Earth. Since 1642 Sikkim was ruled by Chogyal's, which was their word for "King". In 1959 Hope Cooke, a New York debutante, met the handsome young Prince Palden, heir to the throne of Sikkim. They married in 1963 and had two children. Upon the death of his father, Palden became the Chogyal. Hope and the Prince did much for their people.

In 1975 the Chogyal was deposed and in 1976 the Kingdom was abolished and Sikkim became a State of India. There are 3 major cultural groups: the original Lepchas, the Bhutias (Tibetan Buddhists who founded the Kingdom in the 1600's) and the Nepalese immigrants who are now the dominant cultural group. Each has retained their traditional language, customs and dress. English is taught in their schools and that, along with Hindi, are the official languages of India.

Sikkim's policy is to develop trades using their own indigenous resources, Tourism is international. When Indians in the lower states become too hot, they retreat to the north to cool off. Sikkim is so mountainous that there is not enough flat ground to build an airport.

Sixteen trekkers from all over the world, bonded by their love of rhododendrons, (a direct quote) set out over rocky trails, leeches in trees and boots, landslides, increasing altitudes, and going up mountain sides and down into narrow valleys, all in search of 38 species of rhododendrons. No matter... Jacquie (at least) found Sikkim both "fascinating and beautiful". It's a country of "big mountains and deep valleys". And of the 38 species they were looking for, they found 35. Rhododendron niveum is Sikkim's "national tree" (yes...TREE) and with other big rhododendrons, makes good firewood for the forest dwellers as it's used to heat their homes and cook their meals. The Government has created several nature preserves where any harvesting, including wood, is banned.

The entire trip was in three stages, each in separate parts of Sikkim. The first in Kanchenjunga

National Park, was over trails unpassable except by foot, both human and animal. Horses carried tents, food and other supplies. The pack animals hugged cliff "trails" of dirt and rock; the trekkers and guides did too. Jacquie didn't say that they returned with 15 instead of 16 trekkers so assuming they all survived, along with guides, the cook, the horses, and the porters. But the trekkers were honored by the Sikkim "staff" as being the slowest ever.

The second trek had to be a relief as they traveled in modern SUV's to the Sikkim Valley of Flowers sanctuary along the Yumthang River. It is a nature sanctuary with river, hot springs, yaks and grazing pasture on rolling meadows surrounded by the Himalayan mountains in the North Sikkim district. For Keith it was a reunion from his first Sikkim trek in 1992.

For the third trek, they rode in 1950 Range Rovers, "lovingly" kept in good repair. And they hiked the cobblestone roads on the mountain ridge that separates Nepal from Sikkim. They stayed in comfortable stone trekkers lodges with dinner and breakfast supplied by their hosts.

Then we were on to the second video. No dialog...just Jacquie's excellent slide photographs and the music of Sikkim. Especially beautiful was the first set of music which sounded like small children singing Sikkim-nursery rhymes or songs. Keith called her video good enough for presentation at a large gathering like an ARS Annual International meeting. I think all of us watching the two videos, (and for me, especially the second one) agree totally with Keith. Because minutes can't begin to do justice to the second video, I'm just going to give impressions of what I viewed. And I watched the second video 5 times...it's that good. So here goes:

Horses somehow keeping their balance on the edge of a cliff.

Rocks for steps.

Rhodys as trees.

Heavily laden dzos crossing a tiny wooden bridge.

Looking down into a canyon filled with fast-rushing water.

Large ferns and blooming viburnum.

Prayer flags fluttering on wooden bridges.

A waterfall of fast falling water.

Skinny houses in clouds.

Blue and white tents
Trekkers, huddled together in a tent with a long narrow table eating and smiling.
Many, many tall prayer flags on poles set in rocks at precipices.
R. falconeri rough bark around twisted branches.
Camp sign...11, 880 feet.
R. wightii and *R. thomsonii*
Horses in a foggy field.
Side of a mountain holding nothing but rhody trees.
Houses along a road in a cloud of fog.
A "store" along the trail selling knitted caps.
An abandoned monastery, beautiful in tiles that were still clear.
Trekkers and staff playing baseball in the fog with a board and a red ball.
Young man hitting a "volleyball".
Open field crowded with tents and surrounded by mountains. The tents look very small.
Blue poppies.
Blue primroses.
The "wonderful cook" wearing a blue cap with braids on his handsome head.
The young man carrying lunch.
Trekker hobbling down a rocky trail.
"Only four horses on a bridge".
A "shy" golden monkey on a branch of golden leaves.
Old city with narrow streets and buildings up against each other but busy.
A sky-high hotel maybe made of Legos.
Twisted road near Apple Valley.
A huge dragon rearing its head against the sky.
Clematis.
Euphorbia.
The plant that looks like Jack-In-A-Pulpit
Orange and gold *R. cinnabarinum* ssp. *blanfordiiflorum*
The "curved-fruited" rhody, *R. campylocarpum*.
Anemones
Rock slides
A monument dwarfed by mountains.
Twisting roads, at 12,000 feet.
The snow-rhody, *R. nivale*.
A field of grazing yaks.
Trekkers saying "good-bye" to cars and walking round or through (or both) a slide,
A kindly-looking old face smiling from a window.
Orchids.
Farm and garden and home of couple "hosting" them...drinking rhododendron beer.

Narrow trail through forest of tree branches in the fog.
Eleven-thousand feet - taking jeep ride over road bumpy enough to break teeth.
Geraniums.
R. lepidotum - the scaly rhody,
Iris.
Color everywhere.
Handsome men, lovely women, beautiful children.

To quote Wally, who spoke for all of us I'm sure: "The only thing I can think of about your program is 'WOW' ". Amen, Wally and Thank You, Jacquie.

Respectfully submitted,

Editor's Note: I apologize for not connecting with Jacquie earlier for pictures to accompany her program but she is currently out of town. I am including some pictures taken by Keith White, who was also on the 2015 trek, to illustrate what Mary so eloquently described.

**R. cinnabarinum
var
blanfordiiflorum**



Beautiful ladies hitching a ride: included are 2nd from left, Brenda MacDonald, then Jacquie Clayton and Maria Stewart on the end.



**Mecanopsis simplicifolia
from the
Yumthang Valley
"Blue Poppies"**



Mt. Pandim and Abies Densa with R. thomsonii in the foreground



Shingba Rhododendron Sanctuary Valley of the Flowers

Steve Hootman in background, Chip Muller in middle and Glen Jamieson in foreground



Store at Dzongri



Dzo's and Porter on Mountainside Trail



Valley below with Yumthang River and the road to the Dongkha La



Rhododendron thomsonii



Primula calderiana Steve Hootman, Maria Stewart, Brenda MacDonald and Mr. Backside



Enjoying a home cooked meal (L): Mike Stewart, Maria Stewart and Jacquie Clayton (R): Paul Thompson and Tony Clayton

Mount Kanchenjunga



October Program



Mount Kinabalu: Southeast Asia's Kilimanjaro

October 13, 2021 6:30 Social 7:00 Program

Zoom:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82208341281>

Meeting ID: 822 0834 1281
One tap mobile
+12532158782,,82208341281# US (Tacoma)
Dial by your location
+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

Dr. Glen Jamieson has a B.Sc in Agriculture from McGill University and a M.Sc. and Ph.D. in Zoology from UBC. He worked for Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) as a research scientist for 31 years, both in the Maritimes (5 yr) and at the Pacific Biological Station in Nanaimo, BC (26 yr). He retired from DFO in 2008, and became editor of the Journal of the American Rhododendron Society in 2009. He joined the ARS in 1995, and has explored for plants in Yunnan, China (2005); Borneo (2008); Ecuador and Peru (seven trips between 1998-2014) and in Sikkim, India (2015). He has travelled to over 70 countries and with his wife Dorothy, lives and maintains a garden in Parksville that is periodically on his local chapter's (Mount Arrowsmith; MARS) garden tour, where he also has an extensive vireya collection, possibly the largest in Canada. He is the editor of the Journal American Rhododendron Society and created the online journal Rhododendrons International.

His Powerpoint presentation will be on his 2018 trip to Borneo, Malaysia, which will illustrate culture, regional biodiversity and some of the challenges of travelling.



Location of Mt Kinabalu



R. ericoides



Whistle While You Work

Smith Garden Fall Work Day

The Smith Garden Fall work day is Saturday, October 16. Start around 9, or when ever you can manage, and work as long as you want. Bring gloves and your favorite hand tools. There are chores for all skill levels. Lunch will not be served but water and coffee will be available. We suggest that you bring your own coffee break snack and lunch.

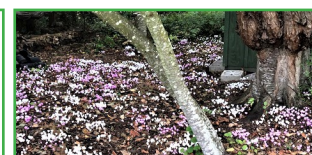
We would really appreciate all the help we can get. There is lots of room in the garden to 'social distance'. I will be doing my sun dance but this will be a rain or shine event so come prepared. It is also a good opportunity to visit the garden. If anyone would like more information, give me a call at 503-625-6331. The address to the Cecil and Molly Smith Garden is 5055 Raybell Road NE, St. Paul, OR 97137. Directions at www.smith-garden.org/Map.html

Dick Cavendar

There is plenty of room to social distance and whistle while you work either inside or outside your mask!



What
you
might
see



Editor's Note: The Cecil and Molly Smith Garden is on the tour schedule for the ARS 2022 Convention (rescheduled from 2020 due to Covid-19). All the work we do now will only enhance the additional clean up next spring. Let's not delay! There is much to do and your help is greatly needed and appreciated. To remind yourself of what your efforts produce, please view the beautiful photographs taken this May in the garden by Jay Raney and Jim Schomaker.

https://youtu.be/DPO_MsG4GsI



WCARS Activities: Need Your Input

Historically, the Willamette Chapter ARS's Members and friends have enjoyed activities such as Potlucks, Plant Sales, Work Parties, Field Trips, Study Groups, and of course our wonderful News Letters and Chapter Meetings with dinners before. Since early 2020, most of these activities have been curtailed or absent due to COVID. However, with some restrictions being relaxed periodically, we have held virtual Plant Auctions and a potluck this past Summer.

If you have an idea for an activity which we can hold virtually, or one where we can gather safely, please let myself or Keith White know your thoughts, and we will help find the resources to put it on. And, if you have ideas or suggestions for Chapter programs or stories for our News Letter, please share them Keith White or Mary Ellen Ramseyer. We hope to expand our current range of fun.

wallacereed@comcast.net, rhodoc@msn.com,
ramseyer_mary@hotmail.com

Thanks for your help.
Wally Reed, WCARS President

ARS & WCARS Membership Renewal for 2022

With all the changes to WCARS and ARS activities and funding, due to the COVID pandemic, both organizations need your wonderful financial support through renewed Memberships.

ONE EASY WAY BY CHECK AND PRE-STAMPED ENVELOPE---By now, most of you should have received in the US Mail a large manilla envelope from Dana Malby, our wonderful WCARS Chapter Treasurer urging you to renew your Membership in ARS and our Willamette Chapter of ARS. Inside the envelope are an already stamped envelope to

return to Dana, and a listing of the type of Memberships available. All you need to do is write a check to the: **Willamette Chapter American Rhododendron Society (NOT WCARS)** and send it in the stamped envelope to Dana. That will get you all the benefits of Membership for 2022.

If you did not receive an envelope from Dana but would like to initiate a new membership or renew as a Member or Associate Member, please choose the correct designation from the form below and write a check to **Willamette Chapter American Rhododendron Society, NOT WCARS** for the appropriate amount and mail to:

Willamette Chapter ARS
C/O Dana Malby, Treasurer
3910 Brooks Ave. NE
Salem, OR 97303-4024

Associate Membership in our Willamette Chapter ARS still needs a check or cash to our Chapter Treasurer, Dana Malby. It **cannot** be done online.

- Willamette Chapter ARS.....\$40
- Associate Membership WCARS
(Must have a Home Chapter memship).....\$10
- Student Membership
(Must show valid student ID card on demand).....\$10
- Sustaining Membership
(Your opportunity to be a Benefactor for ARS).....\$75
- Sponsoring Membership
(A greater statement for the Benefactor).....\$150
- New Individual Life Membership.....\$1,000
- New Family Life Membership..... \$1,500
- Commercial/Corporate Membership
(*Offers a separate listing in the ARS Journal
and 5% discount on advertising rates)..... \$90

Add \$_____ as my donation to the ARS General Fund or \$_____ to the ARS Endowment Fund.

---- THE ARS CREDIT CARD RENEWAL FORM PROCESS----

ARS has developed a procedure for using a credit card for renewing ARS and Willamette Chapter ARS **REGULAR** membership.

The ARS credit card process is as follows:

First go to the ARS Office Web Page (Not the ARS Home Page for everyone.)

<https://www.arsoffice.org/renewal/renew.asp>

Click on "American Rhododendron Society Membership Renewal"

This presents the Window for Credit Card Renewal.

It requests your MEMBER NUMBER -----

ARS MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS ----

These are on the address label of your ARS Journal. If you do not have access to your number, please contact Wally Reed at: 503-588-3666 or wallacereed@comcast.net for your number.

It requests your LAST NAME and a test of your ability to prove you are NOT A ROBOT and color blind.

You will see your current ARS and WCARS membership information. You can make it confidential if you wish and make changes with the UPDATE button.

If you have changed your address, or other info, changing it here should cause it to be changed on our Chapter Roster from ARS.

CONTINUE – Gives you prices for your current Membership level and you can Renew for more than 1 year.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS OF A CHAPTER NEED TO RENEW WITH THAT CHAPTER NOT USING THE ARS CREDIT CARD PROCESS. CASH OR CHECK.

CONTINUE – If you wish to contribute more to ARS or the Chapter

CONTINUE – Cost of the ARS and Chapter Membership. And, do you want to continue to receive the ARS Journal in hard copy???

CONTINUE – Goes to the "PayPal Checkout process" for your credit card.

CLICK ON THE PAYPAL CHECKOUT BUTTON —

After some time, you get the PayPal credit card payment process.

If you have a PayPal account, we think you can use it with no problem.

For the PAYPAL GUEST CHECKOUT PROCESS—

Check "US"

Enter Card Number, Expiration Date, Names, Addresses, other info you may want to provide or not

Then PAY NOW —

YOU SHOULD RECEIVE CONFIRMATION THAT YOU HAVE PAID WITH WHAT YOU PAID WITH.

IF NOT, PLEASE CALL OR E-MAIL

WALLY REED 503-588-3666 wallacereed@comcast.net

RENEW NOW - IT'S FOR THE GOURD OF THE ARS AND OUR CHAPTER!



Where Flowers Bloom So Does Hope

Lady Bird Johnson

Here are just a few pictures of flowers still adding color to our yard.



Schizostylis coccinea

Tiffany - Rose



R. oldhamii

Orange Carpet



Fuchsia & R. oldhamii





Harold Greer

The Satsuki Azaleas

This informative, well-written article was published in the Journal of the American Rhododendron Society (JARS) v38n4.

THE SATSUKI AZALEAS

Harold Greer, Eugene, OR

In the Azalea Series of the genus *Rhododendron* are many flower types and colors. One of the most varied and interesting groups are the Satsuki. Let's take a look at this group, but to do so it is necessary to lay some ground work to take away some of the confusion in the naming of these Japanese azaleas.

We often hear someone refer to an azalea or group of azaleas as an Indica or indicum . Someone else may call the same group of plants *Macrantha* and if you go to Japan you will see a common azalea that looks almost the same called 'Osakazuki'. Then someone will show you certain plants in a group of azaleas they call "Sat-su-key" that look the same. The next person you meet will call the same ones "Sat-skeys";. Then how about *R. eriocarpum* ? What does it have to do with these azaleas? Are you confused? If not, you are one of the few who isn't!

Let's try to examine this situation in more depth and see if we can make sense out of chaos. On the island of Honshu in the area of Tokyo grows a *Rhododendron* species known as *R. indicum* which was named by the botanist Sweet in 1833. This was later placed in the Azalea Series by the Balfourian classification or in the Subgenus *Tsutsutsi* by other classifications. Before Sweet named it *R. indicum* , a botanist by the name of Carolus Linnaeus named it *Azalea indica* in 1753, before it was realized that all azaleas were in fact rhododendrons. Why he named it *indica* which means "Indian" or "India", is unknown. Perhaps he had the mistaken belief that it came from the East Indies. Another thing that should be mentioned here is that this *indica* should not be confused with the tender Belgian or Southern Indicas which are of different ancestry.



'Sakuragami'
Photo by Harold Greer

How about the name '*Macrantha*' we mentioned earlier? This was another name given *R. indicum* also in 1833 by the botanist von Bunge when he named it *Azalea macrantha* . This name has stuck and it is often used in the trade and you will see the many forms of *R. indicum* called by names like *Macrantha Double*, *Macrantha Dwarf* or just *Macrantha*.

In actuality *R. indicum* has had several other names such as *R. decumbens* , *R. breynii* , *R. danielsianum* , *R. lateritium* , *R. hanoense* , *R. hagnoense* , *R. sieboldi* and worst of all it was first published in Europe in Breyne's *Prodromus* in 1680 as "*Chamaerhododendron exoticum, amplissimis floribus liliaceis*".



'Beni Kirishima'
The solid colored flowers are double
Photo by Harold Greer

In Japan *R. indicum* is known as "Satsuki-tsutsuji" since the Japanese in their own use do not use the Latin names. Those plants that belong to the Azalea Series are usually called *tsutsuji* (*suitsuit-gee*) and other rhododendrons are known as *Shakunage* (*shock-u-nog-ay*).

Now we come to the Satsuki azaleas and their relation to all of this. Earlier we mentioned two names '*Osakazuki*' and *R. eriocarpum* . In Japan an azalea called '*Osakazuki*' is planted by the thousands and in early June it seems to be in flower everywhere. It is seen in bonsai use frequently and it is not unusual to see a bonsai '*Osakazuki*' that is said to be 300 years old. In the United States we

do see this same plant under the name of 'Osakazuki', but it is also possible to find it under the name of 'Macrantha' which is probably because R. K. Beattie in 1929 introduced a Macrantha to the U.S. under the name of 'Osakazuki'. Since 'Macrantha' is equal to *R. indicum*, 'Osakazuki' is equal to *R. indicum*. 'Osakazuki' is listed in many books as a Satsuki and according to the "The International Rhododendron Register" there are two plants named 'Osakazuki'. One is the *R. indicum* we just discussed, the other is a Satsuki which is listed as "prize winner of Japanese Satsuki Society; single, large flowered, pink with touches of red." The 'Osakazuki' commonly seen in Japan and often pictured in Japanese books on Satsuki, however is the *R. indicum*, not the Satsuki.

still their main parentage is 'Osakazuki' x *R. eriocarpum*.



**'Osakazuki' - At Toba Japan;
these plants are nine feet across.
Photo by Harold Greer**



**'Osakazuki' on left side of picture
and *R. eriocarpum* on the right
Photo by Harold Greer**

Now comes the question how should we pronounce the word 'Satsuki'? Some in the United States will insist that it should be pronounced "Sat-skey". Others will insist that it be pronounced "Sat-sukey". Who is correct? It seems both are, as the Japanese themselves pronounce it both ways, depending on the area in Japan and the particular dialect used.

"Satsuki-tsutsuji" means fifth month azalea from the fact that it flowers in June, which is the fifth month in the year by the old Chinese calendar.

It seems like we are going around in circles, so let's try to get back on track. Japanese authorities now feel that the origin of the Satsuki azaleas is a cross between 'Osakazuki' (equal to *R. indicum*) and *R. eriocarpum*. *Rhododendron eriocarpum* is a species native to southern Japan which is similar to *R. indicum*, and some botanists have classified it as a variety of *R. indicum*. It is commonly known as the "Dwarf Indica Azalea" and in Japan it is known as "Maruba-satsuki". It generally grows south of the habitat of *R. indicum*. 'Gumpo' (also known as Gunpo) and its clones are considered by some to be equal to *R. eriocarpum*, but others feel that they are crosses between *R. indicum* and *eriocarpum* and they are generally listed with the Satsuki group.



**'Polypetalum' - Also known as 'Kinsai', though
there seems to be some difference between
some of the plants grown as 'Kinsai' and this
clone.
Photo by Harold Greer**

The Satsuki azaleas are the result of the crossing and back crossing of two very similar species (*R. indicum* x *R. eriocarpum*). These crosses done over many centuries, plus the addition of "sports" which this group is so prone to produce, have resulted in a great diversity of colors and flower types. It is possible other azaleas have been used in their parentage. Many theories on this exist, but



**Kotobuki no Sono
Photo by Harold Greer**

The Satsuki azaleas are low to medium growing depending upon the cultivar and the location in which they are planted. Most tend to flower in June, though time of flowering will vary with the area in which they are grown. They flower with or after the new growth appears, but the flowers are large enough that they are not hidden by the foliage. Many of the clones are unstable and will produce limbs of varying colors, and the theory is that in time any cutting taken from a particular clone will produce all the colors possible for that particular clone. The catch may however be in the phrase "in time," since it often takes much longer for all colors to appear on the same plant than seems reasonable. An example of the many colors that appear on one plant is shown in the picture of 'Gyokurei' which is illustrated with this article.



**'Chojuho' - Flowers turn greenish and last a full three months.
Photo by Harold Greer**

The leaves of this group are variable from types that have fairly broad leaves to types with narrow strap like leaves. A few have variegated leaves such as Shirafuji which is pictured. A superb clone for foliage is Kazan, a plant that is often sold in the U.S. as Rukizan. It has little glossy mouse-ear leaves which are most delightful.

All in all the Satsuki group is a very interesting and diverse group of plants which would make a worthy addition to any garden. To quote Hideo Suzuki (Vice President of the Japanese Rhododendron Society and our host on a recent tour of Japan) when discussing a Satsuki azalea fair we were going to see, said in his delightful Japanese English, "We rhododendron enthusiasts don't grow Satsuki azaleas; they are TOO beautiful!"



**'Gyokurei' - This plant was the first prize winner in the bonsai show in Kunuma, Japan. It is about four to five feet tall and is a good example of the many flower colors that occur on one plant.
Photo by Harold Greer**

There is a great variation in flower type, size and color with the largest flowers being over six inches across. Other flower types include flowers that have no petals, only stamens which make a delightfully interesting appearance; fully double flowers; star shaped flowers; and in one type represented by the named clone 'Chojuho' the petals thicken and become leaf like lasting a full three months. One of the distinguishing features of an azalea is the fact that azalea flowers have five lobes. The Satsuki group is an exception to this rule however, as some clones have six and occasionally seven lobes, though flowers with five lobes can occur on the same plant. Of course any double type azalea may also have more than five lobes.



Sekimori no Sai - Each flower has a most interesting shape. The double form can occur on the same plant.

Photo by Harold Greer



Shirafuji - Most desired for the white edge variegation on the leaf edges.

Photo by Harold Greer

Mark Your Calendars!

Conferences and Zooming Opportunities You Don't Want to Miss

Eugene Chapter October 20, 2021



Speaker: Don Wallace from McKinleyville, California
Topic: Pruning Rhododendrons - How and When

Social Time 6:30pm Program Time 7:00pm

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86900120737?p-wd=dC9IOXpUWWWhwTU13TIVXQUF1VzhHdz09>

Meeting ID: 869 0012 0737 Passcode: 907426

Don Wallace, proprietor of Singing Tree Gardens Nursery, will talk about pruning; timing, technique and why to prune.

This is a Video Presentation by Don as presented to the Eureka ARS Chapter in December, 2020.



Portland Chapter October 21, 2021



Speakers: David Anderson & Andrew Stern

Topic: "Our North Cascade Rhododendrons: Friends and Family"

Social Time 6:30pm Program time 7:00pm

Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84885825966>

Meeting ID: 848 8582 5966

One tap mobile:

+12532158782,,84885825966#

Dial Option: (253) 215-8782

David and Andrew, avid hikers, found a mutual interest as naturalists, now taking weekly hikes all over the Northwest exploring and discovering interesting botanical and entomological (insect study) specimens. They use inaturalist.com as a source of identification and contribute their own findings. They have focused their plant hunting on the search for *R. macrophyllum*, the reliable roadside native found in upper elevations of Washington and Oregon. They will share the spotlight with the other Northwest native rhododendrons – *R. menziesii* and *R. albiflorum* – and the plants typically found accompanying them. David's article "The Search for the Wild Rhododendron" was published in the ARS Journal (JARS) in [Spring of 2021](#) (note: requires member login). David and Andrew are members of the Board of Directors of the ARS Portland Chapter.



**R.
Macro-
phyllum**

2021 Virtual ARS Fall Conference "Fall into Gardening"

October 23-24

Hosted by the Mount Arrowsmith Rhododendron Society and the Nanaimo Rhododendron Society in partnership with the Vancouver Island Master Gardeners

SATURDAY

Hartwig Schepker, Germany
Sichuan: A Plantsman's Paradise

Shannon Berch, BC
Living Soils

David Sellars, BC
From Rhododendrons to Rock Gardening

Don Hyatt, VA
A Walk in the Woods

SUNDAY

David Millais, UK
Conservation of Heritage Rhodos

Linda Chalker-Scott, WA
Landscape Mulches

Richard Dionne, QC
Growing Rhododendrons in Québec

Don Wallace, CA
Fragrant Rhododendrons



The only requirement to attend is to
register with Mailchimp at:

[https://mailchi.mp/9151e79e2a98/
fall-conference-2021](https://mailchi.mp/9151e79e2a98/fall-conference-2021)

Conference details [HERE](#)

ARS 2022 Return to the Northwest



Plans are going full speed ahead for the ARS Spring Convention, celebrating the (belated) 75th anniversary of the Society.

As you can see by exploring the [WEBSITE](#), we plan to duplicate most, if not all, of the elements that were in place for the postponed 2020 convention.

Assuming Covid is under control by then, we'll be enjoying the company of our fellow ARS members with a variety of meetings at the Heathman Lodge and bus tours of featured area gardens in addition to optional Pre- and Post- Tours.



A fantastic promotional video of the convention is posted on [YouTube](#)

Registration opens November 1st

Don't Delay and I hope to see you there!



Elizabeth is the Flower for October



Among low growing red rhododendrons, 'Elizabeth' has been the chosen one. It was picked as the October flower because it often flowers in the fall. Lovely foliage and plant habit characterize this vigorous and floriferous plant. Large red trumpet flowers celebrate spring.

- Predominant Flower Color:** Red
- Flower/Truss Description:** Flower broadly campanulate, about 3" across, deep red. About 5 flowers per truss. **Often flowers in fall.**
- Fragrant:** No
- Bloom Time:** Early Midseason
- Foliage Description/Plant Habit:** Leaves ovate, up to 2" long, dull green with thin fawn indumentum. Susceptible to powdery mildew. Round-shaped and compact shrub.
- Height:** 5 feet in 10 years.
- Cold Hardiness Temperature:** 0°F (-18°C)
- Parentage (Seed Parent x Pollen Parent):** forrestii ssp forrestii 'Repens' x griersonianum
- Elepidote (E) or Lepidote (L):** E
- Hybridized or Selected by:** Aberconway
- Registration Reference:** RHS 58

Plant information obtained from the American Rhododendron Society website and Harold Greer's "Greer's Guidebook to Available Rododendrons"



Halloween Filler Fun



R. 'Halloween Candy'. A hybrid whose color is intense, but the truss is loose. Even with the loose trusses, it flowers very heavily, making quite a show. The plant will be 5 ft tall and wide in 10 years. Not particularly hardy, but for those who live in the coastal areas, it is worthwhile.

Online Shopping and the ARS Store - A Reminder to Help

Anytime you shop online for just about anything, please consider first going through the American Rhododendron Society Online Store. The ARS Online Store is reached by the link <http://arsstore.org/>

On this site you will find a range of merchants who have agreed to give the American Rhododendron Society a referral fee back on each sale "referred" by ARSStore.org. Just use a link from the ARS Online Store site to go to a merchant's site and buy something like you normally would. You get the same low price and help the ARS.

MONTHLY CHAPTER MEETINGS

EUGENE CHAPTER

Third Wednesday from Oct to March at 7:30pm
The Springs at Greer Gardens, 1280 Goodpasture Island Rd, Eugene, OR

PORTLAND CHAPTER

Third Thursday from Sept to May at 7:00pm
All Saints Episcopal Church, 4033 SE Woodstock Ave, Portland, OR

SALEM HARDY PLANT SOCIETY

First Tuesday from Oct to May at 7:00pm
Dye House at Willamette Heritage Center, 1313 Mill Street SE, Salem, OR

SUISLAW CHAPTER

Third Tuesday at 7:00pm
First Presbyterian Church, 3996 Highway 101, Florence, OR

TUALATIN VALLEY CHAPTER

First Tuesday from Sept to April (except for Jan) at 6:45pm
Washington County Fire District 2, 31370 NW Commercial Street, North Plains, OR

DISTRICT 4 CHAPTER WEB SITES

Willamette Chapter	arswillamette.com
Eugene Chapter	eugene-chapter-ars.org
Portland Chapter	rhodies.org
Siuslaw Chapter	siuslawars.org
Tualatin Valley	tualatinvalleyars.org

All other web sites can be found on rhododendron.org
Under "chapters" under web sites

ARS BULLETINS are available online at:
<http://scholar.lib.vt.edu/ejournals/JARS/>

WILLAMETTE CHAPTER ARS AWARDS HISTORY - 1978 to 2019

GOLD ---

Herb Spady	1991
Betty Spady	2001

SILVER ---

Richard "Dick" Cavendar	2003
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BRONZE ---

June Brennan	1987
Jason Ashford	1990
Constance Hansen	1991
Betty Spady	1991
Bob Grasing	1997
Sharon Leopold	2002
Wilbur Bluhm	2006
Chuck and Maxine Dehn	2006
Keith White	2007
Helen Malby	2008
Anne Gross	2009
Dick and Carol Lundin	2011
Wally and Kathy Reed	2012
Syd and Don Werminger	2013
Dick and Carol Lundin	2019
Mary B. Crofts	2019
Roger and Kathy Lintault	2019

WILLAMETTE CHAPTER OFFICERS

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